



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/581,919	04/19/2007	Didier Lecomte	979-231	2832
39600	7590	09/15/2010	EXAMINER	
SOFER & HAROUN LLP. 317 MADISON AVENUE, SUITE 910 NEW YORK, NY 10017			JAMAL, ALEXANDER	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2614	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			09/15/2010	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/581,919	LECOMTE ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	ALEXANDER JAMAL	2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 June 2006.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5 and 10-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 6-9, 15-17 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled “Replacement Sheet” in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1- rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bund et al. (US 20050191908 A1), and further in view of Kha et al. (US 20050026506 A1).

4.

As per **claim 1**, Bund discloses a cross connect circuit used with a telecommunications (copper pairs) of a communications network (abstract). The terminal block comprises parallel rows of contacts (fig. 1, para. 9). The contacts are coupled as pairs via a coupler that can be

accessed by a detachable splitter module (high and low pass filtering) (para. 9). Bund discloses that the splitter module can interface to the cable connections via the rear of the terminal block. However, Bund does not disclose an elastic connection between the contacts (terminal parts) which are moved by the connection faces of the splitter module.

Kha discloses hot swappable modules in a cross-connect system, where the contacts are coupled to elastic connectors (para. 49, fig. 5B) which are moved and coupled to the connection faces (miniweco plug) of a hot swappable module. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to implement an elastic connection for the disclosed removable splitter module for the purpose of making the module hot swappable.

As per **claim 2**, the contacts were facing each other.

As per **claim 3**, the connection of the detachable splitter is at the rear of the housing. The cables will come out of the front end.

As per **claim 4**, the splitter taps into the signal path.

As per **claim 5**, the splitter comprises high and low pass filters.

As per **claim 11**, Bund and Kha disclose wire posts.

As per **claim 12**, Bund discloses insulation displacement (selfstripping slit) connectors (para. 11).

As per **claim 13**, there are multiple rows and connector modules.

Art Unit: 2614

5. **Claims 10-** rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bund et al. (US 20050191908 A1), in view of Kha et al. (US 20050026506 A1) in view of claim 1, and further in view of De Luca et al. (4204095).

Bund and Kha disclose a terminal block but do not disclose the use of jumpers to couple the contacts.

De Luca teaches that the use and advantages of jumpers in cross-connects (Col 1 lines 5-15). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to use jumpers for the purpose of reduced cost.

6. **Claims 14** rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bund et al. (US 20050191908 A1), in view of Kha et al. (US 20050026506 A1) in view of claim 1, and further in view of Kha et al. (US 20040097138 A1)

As per **claim 14**, Bund and Kha(1) disclose a terminal block but do not specify a hinged (axis of rotation) portion of the block.

Kha (2) teaches the use of a hinged portion of a terminal block in order to facilitate a removable module (abstract). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to implement a hinged axis of rotation in order to facilitate the removable splitter modules.

Allowable Subject Matter

Art Unit: 2614

Claims 6-9,15-17 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable over the prior art of record if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander Jamal whose telephone number is 571-272-7498, and whose email address is alexander.jamal@uspto.gov

The examiner can usually be reached on M-F 8AM-5PM.
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone or email are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis A Kuntz can be reached on 571-272-7499.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are **571-273-8300** for regular communications and **571-273-8300** for After Final communications.

/Alexander Jamal/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2614

Examiner Alexander Jamal

September 14, 2010

Application/Control Number: 10/581,919
Art Unit: 2614

Page 6